

HERPETOLOGY

Project title: Status and Trends of Amphibian Populations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

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Objective: Assess amphibian status and distribution in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks based on: 1) surveys of all potential amphibian breeding sites in randomly selected hydrological units (7th level); 2) surveys for priority species (Northern Leopard Frog, Boreal Toad) and 3) population monitoring at sentinel sites. This project is part of the Department of Interior's National Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative.

Findings: Surveys were conducted in four hydrological units in Yellowstone: Arnica Creek, Buffalo Meadows, Hayden Valley, and Specimen Creek. We found breeding sites for Tiger Salamanders (11), Boreal Chorus Frog (45), and Columbia Spotted Frog (18). Priority species surveys and monitoring revealed toad breeding at 5 of 6 previously-used breeding sites. Population estimates for spotted frogs at the designated sentinel site are in progress. Survey work will continue in 2001, in partnership with NPS's Greater Yellowstone Network Inventory & Monitoring Project.